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--Twenty Pages--

The European concert season seems to be

about over.

Indiana did not get a Cabinet position,

but with that exception she has got more

big plums than any other State.

It was announced as a Pacific blockade—

that of the ports of Greece—and it is very

pacific as a blockade, but quite disagreeable

to the powers.

During the last year of the Cleveland ad-

ministration the tracks of many Americans

in Cuba pointed towards jail doors. Now

they all point the other way.

A large number of American citizens

would like to hear of a surplus in the treasury

again. They hold the opinion of Col.

Fred Grant that a surplus is easier to manage

than a deficit.

Republican members of the Kentucky

Legislature who refuse to support the

caucus nominee for United States senator

do not seem to realize that they are trifling

with national interests.

If it is true, as stated, that there are

\$80,000 of outstanding bonds against the

suburb of West Indianapolis, the hasty an-

nexationists may wish they had taken a

little more time to consider.

It is strange that Democrats in this Con-

gress did not learn that ex-President Cleve-

land "is no Democrat and never was" until

after they had nominated him for President

three times and elected him twice.

The European powers have "monkeyed"

with the Greek-Turkish question until it

has reached a point where war seems al-

most inevitable. Their blundering dog-in-

the-manager policy is bearing its natural

fruit.

It is an ill wind that blows no good. If

the prosecution of the park scheme gives

employment to 1,200 men during most of

the summer it will afford relief to many

who need it and help to bring about an im-

provement in the local situation.

Col. John Hay, the new ambassador to

Great Britain, has one advantage over

most ambassadors. Generally when a person

is appointed to a high position it is charged

that he represents some faction of the

party in his State. Colonel Hay lives in

the District of Columbia, where there are

no factions.

The dissolution of the Bessemer Iron As-

sociation affords cumulative evidence to

sustain the belief that where the facilities

of production are ample and the profits at-

tractive the trust or "combine" will go to

pieces. The sugar refining and like trusts

monopolize the business.

"Sleep," says Tesla, the famous electrical

genius, "is a sort of cumulative storage

battery for human energy." He adds that

if a person should sleep eighteen of the

twenty-four hours he would live to be two

hundred years of age. Would it not be bet-

ter to sleep nine hours a day and live to

be a hundred? A century of sleep does

not count.

The Journal did not intend to assert that

one attendant is sufficient for fourteen

patients in an insane hospital on its own

knowledge, but upon the experience of the

State of Ohio. If the average of one at-

tendant is sufficient to care for fourteen

patients in Ohio asylums it may be well to

inquire why an attendant is required in In-

diana for an average of nine patients.

It would be remarkable if the authors

of the civil-service rules had not inserted

some requirements which can be ridiculed

by an opponent. The physical requirements

for entering the army or West Point con-

tain features which, when criticised before

an audience by a man who believes that

there should be no physical examinations

for entering civil service, would appear ridiculous.

Still, a physical examination is quite as

necessary in some branches of the public

service as in the army.

It may be that Colorado's "coffee-pee"

makes a beverage which old coffee drinkers

prefer to the richest Mocha and Java, but

on the part of many there is such a

prejudice in favor of those standard

articles that they will prefer them at the

same price. Still, if the coffee pea, yielding

one hundred bushels an acre, good for hu-

man food and to fatten cattle, proves to be

even a fair substitute for coffee, it can

take the place of a lot of very bad com-

pounds labeled prepared coffee.

Whether or not Gabriel D'Annunzio's

"Triumph of Death" is to be classed as ob-

scene literature will be decided by a New

York court this week. Anthony Comstock

having caused the arrest of a dealer who

sold the book, D'Annunzio is an Italian

writer of some force and with especial tal-

ent in descriptive passages, but whose fonda-

ness for studies of morbid human conditions

and of the morally deformed makes his

work distasteful to readers who have no

liking for delving in muck heaps even for

literary gems. Mainly because of this fancy

for morally diseased specimens of human-

ity, however, a certain class of critics and

claqueurs declare that he is a wonderful

poet and a descender of the highest. This

particular tale, whether it be richly ful-

filled as obscure or not, is not likely to

do great mischief because of wide circula-

tion by its clearness and dullness will dis-

courage most readers before half its chap-

ters are finished.

## SCATTERING OF THE POWERS.

The announcement of the retirement of

Germany from the powers which agreed to

blockade the ports of Greece indicates a

failure of the scheme. The reason which

is given for the retirement of Germany is

the retirement of Great Britain. As France

has scarcely been with the powers, it may

now be said that if the ports of Greece

are to be blockaded, Russia must do it.

Assuming that the report of the retirement

of Germany is true, it is very evident that

some other scheme than the blockade must

be devised to compel Greece to obey the

mandate of the powers in relation to Crete,

or the difficulty must be left to Greece and

Turkey to settle by war, which they seem

quite willing to do.

Considering the situation from the position

of the Salisbury Ministry, it is no won-

der that his leader in the House of

Commons, Mr. Balfour, objected to further

exploitation of its conduct before the British

people and the world. It is a strange

thing for a British Ministry to engage to

do a thing, issue orders for doing it, and

then back out without giving a reason or

even a pretext. It would be a humiliation

for the wisest statesmen in Great Britain

to confess that they had broken an agree-

ment with the other powers because of the

hostility of the British people. It must be

an impossible lesson for the Conservative

leader to teach, hereafter, ministers must

politely submit their plans to the people

before carrying them into effect.

During the past few years the British

government has not been in full accord

with the other powers. It has had designs

of its own in Africa and elsewhere which

have aroused the jealousy of its neighbors

who covet other lands. Not long ago

Germany was angered because the British

Ministry was tardy about acknowledging its

membership of a triple alliance. Germany

has shown its ill-will by giving more

than silent support to the Boers in South

Africa. The war lord of Germany will have

fresh cause for wrath because the Salis-

bury Ministry, having agreed to the blockade,

has broken the agreement in a manner

which compels Germany also to retire.

William is not a person who can be com-

plained when he is made to appear to

withdraw from a plan because a rival has

first withdrawn. Russia will be less dis-

turbed by the discord. In fact, it may be

possible that this power will be pleased to

have the others fall to agree, to the end

that it may make its own arrangements

with Turkey, which must now see that it

cannot depend upon the support of Great

Britain when it involves a dispute with

any other smaller nation. This much seems

assured: The powers cannot act in concert

as they often have. They can no longer

place reliance upon each other, be-

cause, in two or three European countries,

the people have come to be the powers

through their ability to arouse a public

sentiment which will overthrow ministries.

## SHALL NEW YORK BE DIVIDED?

Two bills have been introduced in the

New York Legislature to divide the State

into two, one to consist of the counties of

New York, Kings, Queens, Richmond,

Westchester, Suffolk and Putnam, which

means Greater New York with some addi-

tional territory, and the other of the re-

mainder of the State. The object of the

scheme is to remove New York city from

legislative control and secure real home

rule. The proposition is receiving some

support on this ground, and it may be en-

titled to some, also, on the ground that it

would relieve the rest of the State from

political control by the city of New York.

The conservative New York Evening Post

admits that "there is much to be said in

favor" of the proposition. It says:

Greater New York has now about half the

population of the State. It is in the main

a wholly distinct community, its man-

ners, customs and some of its lan-

guages being foreign to most of the rest

of the State. This goes far to make it

an independent unit, and it is not to be

regarded as a part of the State. The

"hayscapes" know little about New

York except as a "great wicked city," to

which they occasionally come to have a

"good time." Besides this, the population

of the city is so great that it would be

able to control the Legislature, and

the short rule of Governor Roosevelt

alone will control it, and how could Con-

gress refuse its assent if the State, through

its Legislature, would not assent? It is

said that when the time comes, it would

be easier for the greater city to assume

control of the State than it would be for

the rest of the State to assume control of

the city. The rural legislators, so going to

see the State of the dilemma he will

have to face.

Under the proposed division the seven

counties embracing all surrounding

Greater New York would have a larger

area than Rhode Island or Delaware, and

their population would exceed that of most

of the States. It is a preliminary step

to the division of the State, it is neces-

sary to obtain the consent of the Legisla-

ture and of Congress, as the Constitution

of the United States says "no State shall

be formed or erected without the juris-

dictory of any other State without the con-

sent of the Legislature of the State con-

cerned, as well as of Congress." If it

could be shown that the division would

be beneficial to all concerned the necessary

consent could doubtless be obtained. In

the case of West Virginia the Legislature

of old Virginia never did consent to the

separation. Virginia having seceded from

the Union, twenty-five counties in the

western part of the State sent delegates to

a convention which repudiated the action

of the Richmond convention in seceding,

and called a convention to provide for the

formation of a new State. At the second

convention forty counties were represented.

It adopted a provisional form of govern-

ment, elected temporary state officers and

called a third convention to frame a Consti-

tution. This convention framed a constitu-

tion which was ratified by the people on

May 3, 1862. The provisional Legislature

of the State gave its consent to the forma-

tion of a new State, and on Dec. 31, 1862,

Congress passed an act admitting the new

State to the Union, when its Constitution,

abolishing slavery, should be ratified. This

was done March 23, 1863, and on April 20

President Lincoln issued a proclamation de-

claring that the new Constitution would

take effect and the new State become a

part of the Union sixty days from that

date. Thus it was more than two years

from the time the first step was taken for

the formation of a new State before it was

admitted. These facts have no bearing on

the case of New York, but they illustrate

the constitutional method of forming a

new State. If the present movement should

succeed, making an independent State of

New York city with some additional ter-

ritory, it would give the city two

United States senators and added in-

fluence in national legislation. It re-

calls the fact that in January, 1861,

when the question of secession was first

most, Fernando Wood, then mayor of New

York, recommended that the city secede

and become a free city. That, however,

was a reasonable proposition, while the

present one contemplates only constitu-

tional methods and is likely to receive at

least respectful consideration.

## THE CONCLUSION OF AN INDEPENDENT.

Mr. E. L. Godkin, editor of the New

York Evening Post, has an article in the

Atlantic Monthly for April on "The Nomi-

nating System," which contains many well-

considered suggestions, and, while they lack

the incisiveness of that conspicuous in-

dependent's everyday style of expression,

they are none the less interesting and all

the more convincing. The fact that Mr.

Godkin discusses the nominating system is

of itself an intimation that he believes that

it is a thing to be improved rather than

to be destroyed. That he insists upon a

nominating system is evidence that he ac-

cepts parties not as a necessary evil, but as

things which exist and will shape the policy

of the country. Mr. Godkin does not, how-

ever, leave his readers in doubt, but, an

independent of independents, he frankly

confesses in the closing pages of his article

that "independent voting has ceased to be

a remedy" for political evils.

This declaration will surprise and pain a

large number of young men who, as read-

ers of Mr. Godkin's paper, the Nation, have

become independent and as such recog-

nized him as teacher if not leader. Prob-

ably no man has done so much to build

up an independent movement in the large

cities as has the man who now confesses

in the Atlantic Monthly that "independent

voting has clearly ceased to be a remedy."

The reason he gives for this conclusion is

that the refusal to belong to any party

"necessarily involves the abandonment of

any share in the work of selecting party

candidates and shuts the voter up to a

choice between two in whose nomination

he has no influence." He further declares

that when any considerable body of inde-

pendents stand aloof they "take out of

each party a large body of the most

thoughtful and patriotic voters, who still

retain a keen sense of the fact that party

is an instrument, not an end, and whose

aid would be most valuable in raising the

character of nominations."

Another fact which Mr. Godkin has

learned from observation is that the power

of what is called the machine "has in-

creased pari passu with the growth of in-

dependent voting. In no other State is the

independent vote so powerful and so

active as in New York," Mr. Godkin con-

tinues, "and in none is the machine so

audacious or so insensitive to warning."

With an air of pathetic helplessness this

chief of independents asserts that all

that independent voting can do is to

punish one party by putting the other in

power. To secure better things, Mr. God-

kin advocates the protection of law for the

primary, and efforts to induce good citi-

zens, including independents, to attend it

and make their power felt. He is encour-

aged by the fact that in some States the

primary is protected by the same laws

which protect the election from fraud, and

that the subject is being quite generally

discussed.

This avowal of the most prominent of

the advocates of independent voting is most

significant. It may be the beginning of a

movement which will eradicate that senti-

ment which leads many excellent young

men to take pride in showing contempt for

political parties.

## THE CHANGING SEASON.

It is a peculiarity of poems on spring that

they are invariably based on the phenom-

ena of rural life, though they are as often

produced by denizens of the town as of the

country. The versifiers sing of birds and

bees and bursting buds, of springing flow-

ers, of the charm of field and forest and

stream as winter says farewell. These are

the tokens by which the season of growth

has so long been known to literature that

those who are moved by occult influences

to sound its praise evidently believe that

that they can properly express their senti-

ments or describe the vernal period. But

poets do not get his inspiration from birds

or flowers. It is true that he may see the

grass grow green on cleanly-shaven lawns,

he sees the pavement littered with the red

blossoms of the maple, and he may, by

chance, catch sight of a daring robin, but

as little as any swallow makes a summer

does one robin make a spring. What does

the poet know, as he travels over asphalt

streets, of the pungent odor of the freshly-

plowed field, or of the faint perfume of the

forest when its myriad forms of life begin

to stir? What does he know of the swiftly-

changing tints that come upon fields and

hills and woods as vegetation advances and

the wonder of growth is seen in its broad

effect? What does he know, even by closer

observation of plant life, when the vagrant

weed is not found in his path and his spring

flowers are grown under glass? It is true

that the poet, if he is a wheelman, may

wander far beyond the paved thoroughfare,

but whoever knew a cyclist who looked to

the right or to the left, or who considered

ought but his vehicle when he takes his

way abroad? But, though his verses are

conventional, the thought is suggested by

signs as marked as those offered by nature.

The town has its own tokens of spring,

apart from the robin, the crocus and the

blueness of the skies. There is the bicycle

itself, which emerges from its winter quar-

ters on the first sunny day. There is, of

course, the perennial wheel, which is in evi-

dence always, winter and summer, but

spring is its distinctive season, the time

when an army of new enthusiasts joins the

veteran forces. The observer whose senses

are awake to what goes on about him be-

comes aware of many things unnoted by

the dull-witted. Long before the Easter

hats come upon the scene he is dimly aware

of a freshening up of the winter garments

suddenly made to seem shabby by the too-

searching sunshine. There is an irruption

of violets on hats and gowns—not the genu-

ine article, but an imitation that answers

the furnishing purpose fairly well. Florists'

windows bloom out in a night with masses

of yellow daffodils and white lilies. The

tan shoe makes an occasional venture into

the streets and the shirt waist flunts itself

in the shops. The merry advertiser occu-

pies much space in declaring the merits of

spring outfits of every sort, from clothing

to patent medicine, and, crowning proof

of all that spring has come, is the swift

change of summer temperature, with the re-

sultant "tired feeling." None of these indi-

cations of the change of season may be

poetical, but it is plain that they inspire the

poets, since in many cases they are all the

signs the gifted beings have to show that

somewhere nature's vernal miracle is being

wrought.

The contention between Mr. William R.

Crewen, ex-member of the British Parliam-

ent, and Senator Morgan relative to the

latter's position towards the arbitration

treaty raises a question of veracity. Mr.

Crewen says that in an interview he had

with Senator Morgan the latter said so and

so, and the Senator says he did not say

anything of the kind. As the case stands

the Journal is disposed to believe Senator

Morgan. It would not be fair to doubt the

veracity of a United States senator on the

supported evidence of an ex-member of

the House of Parliament. International

comity demands that if the word of a

senator is to be impeached it should be

done by a member of the House of Lords.

Matters of this kind should be conducted

with due regard for good form.

A French statistician and social econo-

mist produces figures to show that the

birth rate in France is decreasing to an

extent that threatens the destruction of

French power and prestige. He shows that

the births per one thousand of inhabitants

have decreased from twenty-seven in the

decade 1850 to 1860, while every other

decade 1860 to 1870, while every other

decade 1870 to 1880, while every other